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Join the CIA and travel around the world

Federal intelligence agencies seek employees

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Are you one in a thousand?
Are you bright, self-reliant and self-motivated with a spirit of adventure?
If so, pack up your trench coat and dark glasses because the CIA may have a job for you.

The Central Intelligence Agency is looking for "an elite corps of men and women," according to an advertisement in the Daily Titan last semester.

Although it may seem unusual for the CIA to advertise in a local paper, a CIA representative said the ads "get a tremendous response."

"We started advertising in Southern California about six or seven years ago," L.L. Curran from the CIA said. "We are always looking for people who want a lifetime career."

Benefits for "the special men and women" who meet the information-gathering agency's requirements include international travel, prestige and a starting salary of at least \$15,000, the ad says.

However, the requirements include a college degree, language skills, U.S. citizenship and a "clean" criminal record.

And lies are unlikely to escape the scrutiny of the intelligence agents' personnel department, which conducts a six-month long background check of each prospective employee's past, following an initial interview.

"I remember when I was hired," said Bev Calverley, a government employee in the narcotics department of the CIA.

"They (the CIA) went back to my roommates in college and also around to my neighbors where I grew up and asked all kinds of questions," she said. "Everyone thought I was in some kind of trouble."

Part of the intensive probe investigates use of narcotics and other illegal drugs. Applicants must indicate if they have used the drugs, under what circumstances and on what dates.

Curran agreed that chronic drug abuse could hurt an applicant's chances for a position. "We probably won't accept a person who has used heroin or other strong drugs," Curran said.

The other famed half of the U.S. intelligence services, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, also recruits college students although not in newspapers.

Unlike the CIA, the FBI is national, not international, in scope. "We don't have investigators in foreign countries," FBI recruiter Munoz said. "The ones abroad are mainly just correspondents or are on special assignment."

Additionally the CIA, which is under the executive branch of government, is Washington, D.C.-based and employees must relocate there. On the other hand, the FBI is a federal agency under the auspices of the Justice Department and has stations throughout the nation.

Although both agency employees receive full government benefits, the FBI pays employees slightly higher for "hazardous duty pay" stemming from their law enforcement powers.

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CIA agents are not issued weapons, Curran added.

The CIA has a graduated pay scale, depending on college degree and work experience. An applicant with a Ph.D and some applicable work experience can earn \$22,420 as a starting salary.

What is applicable experience?

Curran explained that experience can range from living overseas for an extended period to having done intellectual analysis.

"If you had a job where you used skills to influence other people, that would be an applicable experience," Curran said.

And the elite corps is not only for men.

"Ten years ago, five percent of our career training class for officers was women. Today, it is 50 percent female," Curran said.

There are no height or weight requirements other than not being obese, but CIA applicants must have corrected vision 20-20.

However, FBI applicants must have 20-20 vision without correction, due to their more hazardous work.

Curran said although there is a government-wide hiring freeze, resumes are still being accepted and examined. He added that resume forms are available in the Cal State Fullerton placement office in Langsdorf Hall.

But, prospective applicants should remember the "possible hardship" mentioned in the ad.

"One of the agents I worked with in Florida went on a drug bust and was shot," Calverley said.